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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1916.

"Thoroughly Ashamed"

TRANSLATIONS of the papers and letters of the excellent Herr Captain von Papen, recently seized by British authority, convey the information that George Sylvester Viereck is "thoroughly ashamed" of his country. This puts the editor of the Fatherland on an exact par of patriotism with Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, who has suffered it to become known on several occasions that he also is "thoroughly ashamed" of the United States. The balance is restored by the circumstance that the country is "thoroughly ashamed" of both of them.

Governor Whitman has finally decided that the bird in hand is the one which he hopes will molt again.

Borrowing From Bond Proceeds

ONE serious trouble with the methods of finance pursued by Richmond is the practice of borrowing from the proceeds of bond issues to meet demands that should be met from the city's current revenues. The inevitable result of this habit is confusion as to the city's real financial situation, failure to appreciate properly the true gravity of the accumulated deficit, and delay in providing means to meet the city's money needs.

The practice of borrowing from bond issues is of exceedingly doubtful propriety. Proceeds of such issues should be expended solely for the purposes for which the bonds were authorized. The saving in interest may sometimes be considerable, but a better system of handling loans and deposits probably would provide the same advantage. The city should be able to obtain for its funds on deposit nearly as much interest as it is required to pay for money it borrows.

Bond issues by municipalities are justifiable only when made for permanent improvements. The city's normal expenditures should be financed from current revenues.

Now that the ground hog has had his day and the sun has pulled off its eclipse, we are waiting to hear about the condition of the Delaware peach crop and the first real round robin.

Changes in Tax Laws

EVERYBODY knows, and has known for a long time, that the State of Virginia, in the fiscal year 1917, will lose \$500,000 in revenue from liquor licenses. The people were informed a month ago that the new tax laws, because of changes made in the rates suggested by the Committee on Tax Reform, had failed to yield the expected revenue. At that time Governor Stuart and his associates on the advisory board recommended changes in the law that would provide revenue to take the place of that lost through the disappearance of liquor taxes and the reduction of rates on various intangibles. The Advisory Tax Board now has made these recommendations specific.

This is absolutely all there is to the pre-avalanche excitement. Efforts to recover back taxes, which it was said were to be abandoned, are not to be abandoned. The advisory board proposes some equalization and some increases, combined with new methods of dividing certain taxes between the State and the localities.

As to the wisdom of these recommendations, there may be sound reason for differences of opinion. Certainly Richmond ought not to be expected to increase its present contribution to the expenses of the Commonwealth. Richmond's opposition should be presented forcefully, but without hysteria. It will go farther and fare better by keeping its head.

The New York Sun says if the time ever comes when mankind uses a universal language, there will be fewer lawsuits and disagreements than there are to-day. No universal language will ever settle a tailor's bill or bring about an understanding between diplomats.

Which School Shall We Follow?

THOSE opponents of preparedness who hold their position with the declaration that making adequate military plans is unchristian, even for defensive purposes, have found some difficulty in supporting their contention by scriptural references. Where they have cited a chapter, a passage or a verse to prop their pre-emptive doctrine, advocates of a less humble course have quoted injunctions of precisely contrary tenor.

As a matter of fact, the many churches, the innumerable sects and the widely variant schools of theology in the world bear sufficient evidence that many portions of the Scriptures are susceptible of more than one interpretation. The Parable of the Unjust Steward, for example, has been explained in a dozen different ways, and any of these explanations could be turned to account as an argument in behalf of some theory or other. In the case of obscure passages, certainly, their lesson depends entirely on their interpretation.

It is to the clergy that the world looks for interpretation and for application to present conditions. When the clergy agree on essentials, the course of conduct to be pursued in matters of everyday life is clear, but when they disagree, who is to decide what the Bible teaches the world to practice? Rev. Charles A. Eaton, a distinguished pastor of the Baptist Church, a man in charge of a peculiarly

influential pastorate and a dominant figure in the religious circles of New York, has resigned, in order to take up the cause of preparedness, stating that he is thoroughly in accord with President Wilson's program.

Dr. Eaton is not only a Christian, but a teacher of Christianity. Some of those who oppose preparedness are also teachers of Christianity. Which school of interpretation are we to follow as that which bears true witness? The answer should be plain—the one that would supply the needs and ward off the dangers that threaten this country.

Basking in the sunshine of Florida, Mr. Bryan says, in delivering his opinion on the President's Western speeches, "I am sure that an overwhelming majority of the American people will oppose entering this war on either side for any causes which have arisen or are likely to arise." Mr. Bryan is authority on the "overwhelming majority of the American people." He has faced it three times.

Kitchener's Star Declines

ANOTHER British idiot appears to be tottering and about to fall. Earl Kitchener, turned to almost universally at the inauguration of the great war as the man who could and would lead his countrymen to victory, is to be supplanted in the direction of British military policy.

Already he is shorn of a large portion of his authority in favor of Sir William Robertson, the new chief of the general staff. London expects that in the near future he will be succeeded as War Secretary by a civilian—perhaps by Lloyd George—and transferred to command in the Near East. His star is setting fast.

It is easy, of course, to criticize, and for British blunders in the conduct of operations Kitchener makes a convenient scapegoat. It may be that in justice he should bear a large part of the blame for that lack of aggressiveness and finality that has been a principal characteristic of the British campaigns on land. Whatever the cause, Britain has failed at the critical moment, since the battle of the Marne. There has been an absence of aggressiveness—of that final "punch" that in conflicts between nations or pugilists often spells the difference between success and failure, between victory and defeat.

There is to be a new conduct of the war, with Haig supplanting French and Robertson taking the place of Kitchener. In great contests like that now being waged nations are impatient of reverse, scornful of defeat. They don't care to listen to excuses, but demand a change, even though they cannot be assured it is for the better. It may be that any change that is at all likely to be made will be for the better, for success in the field is sometimes as much a matter of psychology as of armaments and men. The soldier must have confidence in his leader. Like the rest of us in the ordinary vocations of life, he judges capacity by achievement.

There is a good deal of myth in the stories of many "great generals." Every war is a new war. Principles, perhaps, are enduring, but they are limited and affected by new instruments of locomotion and destruction that the ingenuity of man provides. The value of novel weapons or formations is to be proved only by experiment—and some one must make the test and bear the blame if failure follows. Haig and Robertson will reap where other men have sown.

Times without number in the history of the world military chieftains have climbed to triumph on the shoulders of discredited predecessors. They have learned the lessons for which others paid the heavy price; they have wielded the armies that others have whipped with infinite toil and trouble into shape and efficiency, and so equipped, have won the victory. Had they been earlier in the field, they might have worn crowns of thorns instead of crowns of laurel.

One day the Colonel is in the pool throwing mud right and left, the next day he is chucking little children under their chins and giving them taffy. As a swinger, the Colonel beats the pendulum of an eight-day clock.

Splitting the Doctor's Fee

ATTORNEY-GENERAL POLLARD'S opinion on as to the constitutionality of legislation prohibiting the practice of "splitting fees" between family physicians, on the one hand, and surgeons and other specialists, on the other, seems to leave the legal question in doubt; but that the practice is an unhealthy one, violative of sound principles of public policy, does not admit of doubt. It is vicious, and the vice should be cured.

It does not therefore follow that legislation is the best method of effecting a cure, even if it were certain that such laws would be upheld by the courts. Fundamentally, it is a matter for the profession itself. Within the profession, however, something more than perfunctory disapproval is necessary. Medical ethics does not sanction "fee splitting," but medical practice, it has been shown in a good many instances in other cities, finds plenty of ways of evading the ethical anathema.

If an operation is performed by some specialist recommended by the family physician, it frequently happens that the family physician is present in the operating room, and there plays some minor part. When the fee is divided he is not paid for bringing in the patient, but for the professional service rendered, or assumed to be rendered. The effect on the patient's pocketbook, however, is exactly the same.

We have the statement of a Richmond physician that "fee splitting" is not indulged in here. If our informant is in possession of all the facts, Richmond is to be congratulated, for it is one of the few cities in the country where the practice has not obtained a footing. We rather imagine, though, there have been cases of which he has not heard.

"Cyclone" Davis, of Texas, should send a bale of cotton to the New Jersey Board of Education for the latter's decision that the absence of a shirt collar is no evidence that a schoolboy has no shirt.

It is "akin the law" in Indiana for a candidate to tack up his announcement on a telegraph pole. But an Indiana candidate doesn't have to tack up his announcement anywhere as long as he has tings.

The G. O. P. in Middle West Wilson's Middle West Speeches. Headline. But wait until the G. O. P. meets the R. M. in June if you want to see what a real middle is.

Farm products are considerably higher.—Commercial report. So is everything in the cities. Even the street dresses show no tendency of coming down.

SEEN ON THE SIDE

Boredom's Last Word.

Of all the bores who'll die the earth. To put a crimp in harmless mirth And make men curse existence, The most offensive is the one Who knows how all things should be done— And tells, spite all resistance.

He knows what presidents should do And kings and other rulers, too; He knows quite all about them; So he fills your unwilling ears With extracts from their hopes and fears And why he has to doubt them.

He knows the only way to make The Kaiser in his war boots quake And flee for the tall timber; He knows how German armies could Chase allied forces through the wood And make them weak and limber.

He knows exactly how to save From early and dishonored grave This poor benighted nation; He'll tell you how it can be done, Although you feel you'd like to run From such misinformation.

Poetic justice in this case Should pick out some secluded place And soak this bore in prison, With all his allied bores. If they In one large cell would talk away, Why, each would then get his.

"I am weary of the daily grind," "Why not take a turn once a month?"

As It Was Written. Orchestra leader (to the cornetist)—Here, here! Let up! You make me weary. Cornetist—Well, if you want a "rest" why didn't you mark it in the score?

Shakespeare Day by Day. For the bore: "Thou hast damnable iteration."—King Henry IV, 1. 2. For the hypochondriac: "The world is grown so bad That wrens make prey where eagles dare not perch."—Richard III, 1. 3.

For the true: "A friend should bear his friend's infirmities."—Julius Caesar, IV, 3. For the timid: "But screw your courage to the sticking-place."—Macbeth, 1. 7.

The Pessimist Says: If Belgium does decide to make a treaty of peace with Germany, it should see that the terms are engraved on armor plate. A "scrap of paper" is too easy to destroy.

Good Riddance. "Gad—Are you having much luck with your chickens?" "Stubbs—Fine. A philanthropist in disguise visited my place last night and cleaned out the roost."

Not Impossible. He fervently—Do you think you could learn to love me? She cynically—Perhaps I could. At school my instructors were kind enough to say that when I put my mind on it I could learn to do almost anything.

Cause and Effect. "Is this land rich?" asked the prospective purchaser, cautiously. "It certainly ought to be," replied the gentleman farmer. "I have put all the money I had into it."

Tattlings. The best man at the wedding is never congratulated. Advice is a second-hand article which most of us neglect to take when it is first offered. Getting what we want whets the appetite for something better.

A man seldom hits the mark when he shoots off his mouth. The shoemaker's motto is, stick to your last, of society, just as long as you can stick. Don't put all of your eggs in another man's basket.

At the age of fifty, all wine tastes the same to a man; to a woman at the same age, nothing but ammonia and dross, or, as Dr. Holland expressed it, "What is so dead as a perished delight!" The wages of sin do not settle the bill. Life is what we try to dodge.

A speech at a banquet is what the speaker wouldn't say to you in private. The proud father of a bawling baby boy gets over it when the baby grows up, gets its first job and is lamed by the boss.

Counsel—Your honor, I have done. Judge—It is for the jury to say whether it is well done.

Striking a Balance. Billy—After wine, women and song, the gamut has been played. Betty—And after smoke, whisky and a joy ride the deuce.

Guaranteed Cure. "I am for peace at any price." "I'll often always said." "But if you ain't said in a trice, The folks can be misled." "I'd trouble-maker no advice, But smash the blitherer's head!"

Chats With Virginia Editors

Will the commissioner who is to appear with the proposed bill, in cases arising under the prohibition law, have to be a lawyer? asks the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch. Or a preacher, perhaps.

If the Virginia General Assembly were to be told for killing time, the verdict would be murder in the first degree, says the Roanoke Times. "Get up!" This Legislature is a great improvement in this respect on some of its predecessors.

The Blackstone Courier is happier than it was two weeks ago. It says: "That's all a mistake about labeling substances which contain liquor, the permission being to carry the proverbial quart without it. What a conception to make the prohibition law apply! But concessions must be made them of course."

The Staunton News evidently thinks somebody is going a little too far with certain kinds of reform. It says: "If things keep going as they are now going, a thief will not be able to lift his eyes more, and even the highwayman may be generally applauded as a victim of social injustice."

The Lynchburg Advance shows its wickedness in a paragraph which reads as follows: "Owing to the day falling, military men wearing women's coats will run it seems. We never thought to turn fashion prophet, but it is easy to see that military commanders will be worn quite a good deal next summer."

Fires are sometimes blessing in disguise. The Sandy Valley News was burned out, lock, stock and barrel, on December 25. On February 4 the News made its appearance in enlarged and much improved form. It explains: "We went to work immediately to erect a temporary office building and install a new plant, and now have one of the most modern and best equipped plants to be found in any country town."

The Gloucester News Reporter seems to have given off his last puff of life to the hands of the Legislature, and has bequeathed to its county offi-

cers. It says: "The sheep growers of the county should be given all possible relief from the depredations of sheep-killing dogs. The superfluous have the matter under consideration and should insist on a reasonable limit in keeping out some way to remedy the trouble. Forty valuable sheep were killed in one neighborhood within the past ten days."

That eleventh-hour prohibition organ, the Newport News Times-Herald, seems to be getting the best of its association with the church. It has been introduced in the Legislature providing that qualified voters in the several cities and counties of the State may vote on the question as to whether or not a citizen shall have the privilege of buying a quart. That! Let us have State-wide or local option, but not a mixture of both!

News of Fifty Years Ago

(From the Richmond Dispatch, Feb. 9, 1866.)

Rev. John E. Edwards, who is in Baltimore collecting aid for the poor of Richmond, having been sent by the association of churches here, writes that he has collected \$1,250 in money and about \$500 in supplies for the relief of suffering here, and is on his way to the city.

Artemus Ward is in Petersburg and will lecture there to-night. It is understood that the great American humorist will lecture in this city within the next week or ten days.

The bill granting a charter to the Lynchburg and Roanoke R. R. Co., which was introduced yesterday, finally passed the House of Delegates.

There is also great complaint in Petersburg of exorbitant rental rates demanded by the landlords of that city. House-rent, business and residential purposes are scarce in Petersburg, and it seems the landlords have things pretty much their own way.

The month of January, just passed, had two full moons, and February will have none. Nearly all of the paper recent notes (shillings) have been exchanged and no more will be issued. The Currency Bureau will in a few days issue a very large number of the present shillings.

Gov. Alexander H. Stephens, who was the Vice-President of the late Confederacy, has accepted the United States citizenship from the State of Georgia, but in his letter of acceptance intimates that he does not expect to be allowed to take the seat to which the Georgia Legislature elected him.

East and North Rivers (New York's harbor) are choked with ice, and it is impossible for sailing vessels to move in or out. The large steamers have a very hard time making headway in the harbor.

Thad Stevens now maintains that only thirteen States will be required to ratify the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the United States; that the Southern States have a voice in the matter and are not to be counted as States in any sense—certainly not in the list of the States the affirmative vote of which is necessary to make the amendments effective.

Senator Clarke yesterday offered a bill in the United States Senate providing for the severe punishment of persons convicted of kidnapping negroes.

Fred Douglass and R. H. Downing, another negro of the same stripe, yesterday called on the President to express their views on the state of the country, and especially on the negro question, and to ascertain directly his views on the just-named point. The President expressed good feeling, but said he would be glad to see the colored man and would be glad to see the colored man and would be glad to see the colored man and would be glad to see the colored man.

A special dispatch from Washington received last night says: The reply of President Johnson to the negro delegation headed by Fred Douglass, which called on him today, is the talk of the town to-night. It has created no small amount of interest, and another evidence of the President's stern determination not to yield a single inch to the wild vagaries of Thad Stevens, Charles Sumner and the other radicals of their kind.

Current Editorial Comment

Good ground exists for the belief that the burning of the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa was due to the activities of German agents. The President's members of the House of Representatives reported indications of employment of bombs. It is a matter of public knowledge that other attempts have been made to destroy property of the Government on a large scale. The ruin of a magnificent public building, the seat of the Dominion legislature, the loss of military advantage to the enemies of the United States, the destruction of the energy of German sympathizers, it is another manifestation of the peculiar Teutonic delusion that nations can be freed from their ills by perpetrating outrages that have no military objective. That delusion is responsible for the Japanese attack on the Philippines, the plan to drop bombs from a height where exact aim and the distinguishing of military property from private become absolutely impossible, and the delusion that nations can be freed from their ills by perpetrating outrages that have no military objective.

The American military government of Belgium is reported to have requested the American Consul there to depart, on the ground that Belgium was considered to be an independent state.

From the Vienna viewpoint, seemingly, Serbia is no longer a nation, but merely a geographical expression, and the Croatians and Slovenes have been made before. The crowned partisans of Poland said something of the sort, but they declared that Prussia had ceased to exist, or was it Austria? Exactness is immaterial. The delusion is a frequent one of our statesmen, and it is not to be wondered at, so easily, nor by military decree. If they did there would be no longer an Ireland, nor a Poland, nor a Finland. Nations die only when they are killed by men, not by the force of blood and race and common speech and by proud members of the press that was and which is now in Serbia, and it is because Serbians still live—Chicago Herald.

Col. Roosevelt knows as much about the newspaper business as he does about politics. He knows that printers cannot be trusted, and that editors are limited as to space. With the President of the United States, having prepared twice a day, the papers are not prepared to carry much more of it until his term is over. But President Wilson did not speak last Sunday, and the Colonel knows that news is usually shy in the Monday morning papers, which means that any good news that he has in mind is worth it in the Sunday and on the front pages of the daily papers on Monday morning. How often he has talked to me, interviewed on Sunday since he broke into politics! It is characteristic of him never to overlook a chance, and knowledge of the news helps wonderfully.—New York Commercial.

Confederate Hosts. Where may I get poster of Company G, Thirty-third Virginia, which went from Boydton in 1867?

Probably from the United States War Department, at Washington, D. C., or Colonel J. A. Burt, Library Building, Richmond, Va., the keeper of the Confederate rolls.

Richmond Nurses. How do the hospitals of Richmond stand in order of the success of their nurses in passing the State examination? What other States recognize the Virginia certificate?

Answer to such queries is likely to involve us in some of the long and boring details of the institution named. You may get the information direct from the State board.

Queries and Answers

Enter. Please give dates of Easter Sunday in 1916 and 1917. MISS N. March 27, April 23.

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No Time for Trifling



GETTING THE WORLD'S FUR TRADE

BY FREDERICK J. HASKIN

America is out for the world's fur trade. New York just closed a successful fur auction. St. Louis held her big sale a few weeks ago. Both these sales were unique in American history. New York will have another and bigger auction in March. Apparently the United States is at last to take her rightful place as a world fur market.

The importance of the world's fur trade is not generally realized. Furs are one of the most valuable of all commodities, and the demand for them is steadily increasing. The fur trade has its branches in every corner of the globe. Wars have been fought between nations for its sake. It has opened up new continents. It is as old as the human race, and its products have their recognized value, as real as the value of foodstuffs in every society, from savagery to the highest civilization.

London is today the world's fur market. Before the war broke out she held the position unchallenged. The furs from Canada, the West, the United States, Mexico, South America, Siberia, China—practically the whole world's supply went to a few London brokers. These brokers graded the furs into convenient lots and sent them to the world's fur buyers and manufacturers. On this basis the furs were bid on and sold. Small auctions were held regularly in Russia and Germany, but the value of furs was compared to London's market. Even now, with the fur markets disorganized by war, London holds the bulk of what business is being done. Her auction is running smoothly.

With the entrance of the United States into the game, affairs take on a new complexion. There are ten big fur companies in North America alone. Only the business of the Western Hemisphere can be done by the United States. It should assure the building up of a profitable industry. Moreover, shipments to the New York auction show that Australian furs will be sold here. The center of the fur trade is becoming an established institution.

One great advantage in breaking up the present centralization of the business would consist in the protection afforded to American trappers and fur growers. When the war broke out, the fur market was badly shaken. Prices dropped like lead. This was because the manufacturers were almost all located in the belligerent countries. London sells the furs, but Germany and France are two of the biggest manufacturers. England's factories in this line depend to a great extent on German labor, for the German is pre-emptive in cutting and stitching furs, and the Frenchman leads in arranging them to best effect.

Germany's excellent workmanship has won her a powerful position in the fur business. Her dyeing of furs is recognized as the standard, and dyeing and finishing are two of the chief industries in the manufacture. Great quantities of American furs were annually shipped to Germany, where they were dyed and made up, to be returned and sold here under a German trademark.

Grease is another point where lower-priced furs are made up. The effect of the war on all these countries was, of course, temporary to paralyze the business.

Many Trappers Laid Off. Hence the American trapper often found himself in a position where it did not pay him to kill for an account of the expense for traps and bait, or for rifle cartridges. Many trappers sold their furs to local merchants for the flat amount, and a considerable amount of \$20 state bounty they would sell for \$20, as though the fur itself were valueless.

The American fur manufacturer and retailer also felt the pinch, as his European source of supplies was cut off. As the world got used to the idea of war, and started going about its business again, matters ease up, until to-day they are sounding back toward normal, but much of the embarrassment in America could have been avoided if we had had our own regular markets established in our own country.

Thinking this together with the stimulus that an American world market would give to the whole industry in the United States, the new development is clearly of first importance.

Of course, London is very firmly established in her position. The biggest New York fur dealers are slow to admit the probability of dislodging her with any great extent for some time to come. But she is being outbid by her own men with an organ playing "America."

The auction was even more successful than the men who planned it had anticipated. They had more orders than they could fill, and a considerable number of Australian skins are still en route that will arrive too late for the sale. If the second auction, to be held in March, comes up to expectations, a building will be put up for the special purpose of holding these sales—a feature with a satisfying assumption of permanence.

London does not view the proceed-

ings over here with any great degree of equanimity. Her own auction is going on, and she does not see why one auction is not enough. Her trade journals hint at German influence behind the American sales, but New York and St. Louis continue apparently undisturbed.

On the other hand, the present trend of affairs chimes in well with the wishes of German fur dealers, and they are among the heaviest buyers in the world. Under normal conditions, Germany buys eight times as much of the annual London sales as New York and St. Louis together sold this year. Neither American city passed the \$1,000,000 mark very far in its auction, and German purchases alone used to run around \$7,000,000 in London. It must be remembered, however, that conditions are still far from normal in all the markets, and that it is quite impossible to ship furs to Germany even if that country were in a position to manufacture them.

While it is a natural consequence of the state of affairs in the fur trade and world politics that the American auction should incite mild hostility in England, and that a third thing, namely, such factors have nothing to do with the establishment or continuance of the present sales, though they may have some effect after peace is declared. Whether or not America is to be a fur center depends primarily on how far her natural location favors such a condition, and how enthusiastically the matter is pushed. In both of these factors there seems to be only encouraging evidence. The latter factor that will help toward the end is what ever financial prestige we may gain through the war.

Financial Center May Shift. The strength of London's position is due to her pre-emptive position in the world of fur, and her long connection with the fur trade and her colonial empire. That her colonies are equally ready to trade through America would seem to be indicated by Australia's action. The center of financial gravity may shift. The fur trade is a traditional position can only be overcome by time, and by satisfactory service to all the world on the part of America. If late years there has been some dissatisfaction with the way London handles the business.

England's commanding position in the fur business goes back many hundred years. The fur resources of Canada were one of the chief reasons why that country became a home of contention between England and France. The story of the Hudson's Bay Company, and how its wonderful organization penetrated the wilderness and opened up a new empire forms a chapter of history that is a specially trained eye. The robes of judges, chancellors and other high officials are trimmed with the same material.

Different Furs Compared. Ermine is not one of the very expensive furs, as might be thought from this custom. Certain grades of Russian sable are the most valuable furs of all. Their price is simply a matter of what the buyer is willing to pay. For a single skin of this sort \$3,000 has been paid, and a couple of hundred dozens of skins, which must be carefully collected through a long period of time in order to get a sufficient number that match.

Sea Otter is the most durable of furs, and one of the most beautiful. In consequence of these qualities, you cannot often pick up a bargain in sea otter. As much as \$2,000 has been paid for the single raw skin. This fur is used to trim the robes of state worn by Chinese mandarins. Natural black fox is another fur that the family man views with mild disfavor. It is a freak variety of the red fox, and it runs in the neighborhood of \$2,500 for a single raw skin.

Some interesting determinations have been made by fur manufacturers as to the durability of the various sorts of fur. Among the most durable furs, sea otter wears best of all, followed by seal and sable. Beaver and skunk are cheaper furs that wear well. For hiberns and motor coats, the best is the muskrat, followed by beaver, otter and raccoon. The Russian pole coats that are becoming popular reflect the growing scarcity of certain kinds of fur. This fur was never used and has been imported from the shaggy coats of the eastern trapper.

At an ordinary London auction fifty or sixty different varieties of fur are offered. In the course of a year sales will run all the way from 400 pieces of 100,000 fox. The large number of fox coupled with their comparatively high price makes them one of the big features, although in point of number they are the most numerous. The 2,000,000 or more that are sold annually far exceed them.

Some idea of the immense magnitude of the London fur business can be obtained from figures such as these. If America gets a few legitimate shares centered at home, it cannot fail to benefit the whole country.